

C L A I M S

We Claim:

1 1. A method of providing message notification for a user in an instant messaging system comprising the steps of:

2 a. registering a message notification application to at least one instant messaging service;

3 b. signing a user onto the message notification application by adding the user to a buddy list of the message notification application; and

4 c. sending an instant message notification to the user when a message arrives for the user.

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1 2. The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the step of sending an instant message notification is performed by sending the instant message notification to the user through at least one instant messaging service.

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1 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of retrieving the message by accessing a server.

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1 4. The method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the server is one of an application, a voice messaging and a unified messaging server.

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1 5. The method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of accessing the server by one of sending a request to the message notification application and using a telephone.

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1 6. The method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of retrieving messages from the server by an internet appliance.

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1 7. The method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of deleting a message using the internet appliance without retrieving the message from the server.

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1 8. An apparatus for providing message notification where and when a user is most
2 likely to hear or see notification and allowing the user to instantly review new messages
3 comprising:
4 a. at least one instant messaging service;
5 b. a message notification application having a buddy list and registered to the at least
6 one instant messaging service;
7 c. a server for storing messages and providing a medium for the message notification
8 application to operate; and
9 d. an internet appliance to access the server and receive an instant message
10 notification.

1 9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein in response to a user signing up to
2 receive messages with the message notification application the user is automatically added to the
3 buddy list of the message notification application.

1 10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein the message notification application
2 sends the user the instant message notification through the at least one instant messaging service
3 when a message arrives for the user.

1 11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further comprising means for retrieving the
2 message from the server by one of sending a request to the message notification application and
3 using a telephone.

1 12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein the server is one of an application, a
2 voice messaging and a unified messaging server.

1 13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 further comprising means for deleting the
2 message using the internet appliance without retrieving the message from the server.

1 14. A message notification system that operates where and when a user is most likely
2 to hear or see notification and allowing the user to instantly review new messages comprising:
3 a. at least one instant messaging service;

4 b. a message notification application having a buddy list and registered to the at least
5 one instant messaging service;
6 c. a server for storing messages and providing a medium for the message notification
7 application to operate; and
8 d. an internet appliance to access the server and receive an instant message
9 notification.

1 15. The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 wherein in response to a
2 user signing up to receive messages with the message notification application the user is
3 automatically added to the buddy list of the message notification application.

1 16. The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 wherein the message
2 notification application sends the user the instant message notification through the at least one
3 instant messaging service when a message arrives for the user.

1 17. The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 further comprising means
2 for retrieving the message from the server by one of sending a request to the message notification
3 application and using a telephone.

1 18. The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 wherein the server is one
2 of an application, a voice messaging and a unified messaging server.

1 19. The message notification system as claimed in claim 14 further comprising means
2 for deleting the message using the internet appliance without retrieving the message from the
3 server.

1 20. A message notification system for a user in an instant messaging system
2 comprising:
3 a. means for registering a message notification application to at least one instant
4 messaging service;
5 b. means for signing a user onto the message notification application by adding the
6 user to a buddy list of the message notification application; and

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7 c. means for sending an instant message notification to the user when a message
8 arrives for the user.

1 21. The message notification system as claimed in claim 20 wherein the instant
2 message notification is sent to the user by the message notification application through the at
3 least one instant messaging service.

1 22. The message notification system as claimed in claim 20 further comprising means
2 for the user to retrieve the message by accessing a server.

1 23. The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 wherein the server is one
2 of an application, a voice messaging and a unified messaging server.

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24. The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 wherein the user accesses
the server by one of sending a request to the message notification application and using a
telephone.

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25. The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 wherein the message is
retrieved from the server by an internet appliance.

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26. The message notification system as claimed in claim 22 further comprising the
step of deleting the message using the internet appliance without retrieving the message from the
server.

1 27. A method of providing a voice messaging notification application for a user in an
2 instant messaging system comprising the steps of:
3 a. registering a message notification application to at least one instant messaging
4 service;
5 b. adding a user to a buddy list of the instant messaging service;
6 c. sending an instant message notification to the user when a message arrives for the
7 user; and
8 d. allowing the user access to a server by one of using an internet appliance and
9 using a telephone.

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